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**Governor's Autism Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**May 11, 2017**  
**10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**  
**Department of Health Services**  
**1 W. Wilson St., Room 630, Madison WI 53707**

**Council Members Present:** Nissan Bar-Lev, Vivian Hazell, Pam Lano, Dr. Becky Thompson for Glen Sallows

**DHS Staff:** Sam Ninnemann (for Andrea Jacobson); Nancy Bills, Andy Forsaith, Rachael Currans-Henry, Laura Clark

**Public Attendees:** Bob Johnson (Autism Society of WI); Angela Levin (Mercy Health); Jackie Vick (Partners in Excellence); Mike Miller (Caravel Autism Health); Amelia McGoldrick and Sarah Hardison (ABA Autism Services of Wisconsin, LLC); Julie Quigley (Autism Society Southeastern Wisconsin - ASSEW); Nicole Berlowski (Centerpiece); Stacie Ferg and Dr. Suzanne Arroyo (Fox Valley Autism Treatment Program);

**The meeting commenced at 10:05 a.m.**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Members of the Council and Department of Health Services (DHS) staff introduced themselves.

**2. Public Testimony**

Julie Quigley (ASSEW) shared her interest in becoming a member of the Governor's Autism Council and has applied with the Governor's Office but hadn't received a response as yet. Pam L. commented that the process can take some time but attending the meetings is a good way to stay connected with the Council's work.

**3. Guest Speaker Andy Forsaith, Director, Office of Policy Initiatives and Budget, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Medicaid Services**

Andy presented detailed information with two handouts on "The Budget Cycle - Consideration of the Executive Budget Bill by the Joint Finance Committee" and the "Governor's 2017-2019 Biennial Budget – Selected Department of Health Services Items." Specific information given on Medicaid cost to continue; Medicaid Long Term Care; Miscellaneous Medicaid Items; Mental Health; Income Maintenance; and Wisconsin Works.

Question and Answers followed by committee which included: Budget changes specific to programs that the Autism Committee would be interested in; how Medicaid funding fits into the scope of the budget; CLTS budget funding; Medicaid program surplus; Senior Care Program; Increase in Nursing home funding; Alzheimer's Research at UW; Re-entering workforce initiatives; and the Medicaid Purchase Plan. Multiple members expressed their concern that it is hard to attract direct care staff when they are in the same pool as personal care providers serving nursing homes.

**4. Operational**

**a) Pam L. update on Autism Council letter to Governor Walker**

Pam will send the tracked letter version to Autism Council members by email for review and discussion at the next meeting on August 10. The suggestions for mission and scope didn't change, but the Council may want to make additional edits at that time.

**b) Approval of February 10, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

Due to a lack of a quorum, approval of minutes will be added to the next meeting agenda.

Governor's Autism Council

**4. Operational (continued)**

- c) **Required Public records Law Training – Presented by Sam Ninnemann (DHS/Bureau of Children’s Long Term Support Services - BCLTSS)**  
Sam went through the document prepared by the WI Department of Administration with Council members.
- d) **National Core Indicators (NCI) Survey Update – Presented by Sam Ninnemann (DHS/BCLTSS)**  
Sam presented basic NCI Survey information which was distributed by mail the week of April 24, 2017. The printed survey and letter detailing the mailing went out to 7,000 families in Wisconsin who had a child with either an intellectual or developmental disability who is on the CLTS Waiver; Community Options Program; Birth to 3 Program, or some sort of Medicaid Service). The survey was sent out by paper, but the Survey participant(s) can provide their responses electronically or mail back the printed survey in a self-addressed paid envelope. The letter provided crosswalk language so terminology was easily understandable and consistent. There is a specific DHS/BCLTSS staff person answering verbal inquiries and other interpreter services are available as well. Respondents have until May 31, 2017, to respond and the survey results will be entered into a database by the end of June. National Core Indicators staff will calculate the answers and the Governor’s Autism Council will get the results for their information when they are made available.
- e) **WI Department of Public Instruction/Department of Health Services Workgroup Update – Rachael Currans-Henry, Director, Medicaid Benefits Policy, (Department of Health Services)**  
The Legislature’s Joint Committee on Finance is acting on some of the DHS budget policy initiatives today. Rachael reiterated that the agency will set up separate meetings with the provider community and continue to communicate with the administrators of the Medicaid benefit. Issues are evolving rapidly but it is the agencies’ intention to work together. With regard to schools, there is pending legislation that DHS does not require autism treatment providers as clinics. Medicaid policy says we do not require treatment providers to designate schools as treatment providers and DHS will also not be doing that. One perceived barrier could be the school district interpretation of faith or IDEA requirements. With 426 school districts, the question of how to coordinate making sure that kids and schools are meeting IEPs and what they need to pay for, versus what Medicaid pays for, will continue to be discussed. Behavioral treatment providers will get paid.

Members inquired about conversations between the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and DHS. Rachael said that DHS has represented the Medicaid perspective and that the provider community may want to lead discussions with DPI to clarify guidance with districts. Court cases are saying it is the school’s obligation to pay for some of these types of services. It was suggested by Council members to have attorneys from DPI and/or their Autism Consultant come to a future meeting and address this issue if possible. Another member added that rural children are losing out on services due to their geographic location and that needs to be discussed. Rachael said that if the Council wanted Pam Appleby or herself to come for this discussion they would attend.

Vivian H. suggested that if DHS and DPI had other meetings on this issue before August, the Council may want to add other topics to the next agenda based on their discussions. Nissan said he would contact DPI to see if they would be willing to come to an Autism Council meeting to discuss some of these issues.

**5. Safety Committee Update**

Council agreed to address this issue at their August meeting.

**6. Review of Guidance Resources Available to Families**

Council agreed to address this issue at their August meeting.

**7. Meeting Adjourned at 11:30**

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